

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims and dependent Claims require the presence of slightly soluble opacifying agents or a separate polymeric material that serves as an opacifying agent.

The closest relevant art, by *Katzer (US 3354084)*, although indicating the presence of inorganic opacifying agents and dyes, does not further require a separate additional polymer, along with a water swellable polymer, to serve as an opacifying agent. The reference further indicates that slightly water soluble inorganic material is not to be used (col 2 lines 5-12) as opacifying material.

Potential combinations of additional art {e.g., *Tanaka et al. (US AP 2002/0014610)*, *Vandersall (US Ap 2002/0013403)* and *Pascente et al. (US 5849210)*}, each comprising individually claimed limitation elements, are precluded due to the lack of motivation concerning the addition of separate, specific types of opacifying polymers or slightly water soluble inorganic opacifying agents to a composition comprising water swellable polymer.

Examiner Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AARON GRESO whose telephone number is (571)270-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0730-1700.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571 272 1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James J. Seidleck/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

AJG